# The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian.

No. 3. SEPTEMBER, 1907. PRICE ONE PENNY. 1/6 per annum, post free.

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## PROTESTANTISM *v.* CATHOLICISM.

[COMMUNICATED.]

IT has been said, and said truthfully, that the only religions which are advancing within the limits of Christianity are Roman Catholicism on the one hand and Unitarianism on the other. The former, considered as an *'ism*, and not as an organisation in subjection to the Pope of Rome, is undoubtedly advancing by leaps and bounds within the pale of the great historic Church of England, several of the bishops and thousands of the clergy thereof being to all intents and purposes Romanists, calling themselves Anglo-Catholics, and willing and ready to federate with, if not yield canonical submission to the papacy, as would such eminent laymen as Lord Halifax. That the assertion is true of Unitarianism, of the *'ism* itself, apart from questions of organisation, is equally true. It also exists in considerable strength in the Church of England under the name of Broad-Churchism. It is not altogether unknown in the sister church of the same denomination in Ireland, and as to its prevalence and progress in the Nonconformist Churches of England and, to a lesser extent, among the kindred Churches of Ireland and Scotland, we have but to recall in proof, the celebrated pronouncement of the late Mr. Spurgeon, uttered about the time he, on account of the progress of liberalism in the Churches referred to, separated himself from ecclesiastical intercourse with them. His utterance was that the Nonconformist Churches were honeycombed with a Unitarianism more thorough-going and dangerous than the Unitarianism of those who openly avowed their faith in what he considered heresy as proclaimed in their congregations and assemblies. Is there any logical halting ground between these two extremes? None. A late Roman Catholic bishop, who began life as an under-teacher in Dr. James Nelson's Academy in Downpatrick, meeting immediately after elevation to the episcopal bench the late Rev. S. C. Nelson, son of Dr. James Nelson, said in reply to congratulations, "Give me your hand, Nelson, for either you are right or I am." One must yield obedience to the authority of the Church or

the authority of reason and conscience. And it might be said that if infallible authority rested anywhere upon earth it is to be found in the venerable head of the greatest and most extensive ecclesiastical organisation in Christendom.

It is unnecessary to point out how often and how grievously the assumption of infallibility on the part of the Church as represented by Popes, Cardinals and Priests, has been discredited, or how its exercise has tended to the enslavement of men and the decay of nations. Yet Romanism is advancing. How are we to account for this fact? For one thing, we live in a time of transition, when there is a growing body of truth, scientific and Biblical. The Bible, no longer a fetish, has been thrown into the crucible of criticism. Its every statement of every kind is being sifted and tried at the bar of reason and conscience and experience. But we have still the feeble, the facing-both-ways, the timid, and the indolent who will not, or who cannot, or who have not the courage to think for themselves. When Colenso's examination of the Pentateuch was published a criticism thereof followed in due course from the pen of the late Rev. John Scott Porter, in which Colenso's main positions were accepted. But pitiable was the consternation on the part of many who looked, and wisely looked, to that eminent scholar and honest man, Porter, for light and guidance on such questions. It was thought that the Ark of God had perished. But what educated man or woman, we might almost say of any communion, differs from Colenso and his critic to-day on the main questions discussed? The timid and cautious find their only logical resting place in the Church of Rome, the presumably infallible guardian and interpreter of Scripture. And in this struggling and, to many, hard and sad world, the majority can only live by faith. They must have some believed-to-be supernatural hand to which they can cling amidst their sins and sorrows, and if they believe not in, nor experience the inspiration and guidance of the true authority, the Spirit of God, "the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world" interpreting Scripture and the accumulating knowledge and experience of the times, they must have some external authority and will be only too ready to close with any pretensions and assurances if only these be made with sufficient boldness and audacity. And the cool audacity with which supernatural authority is claimed and asserted is to us truly astonishing, however common, and that not only in the Romish Church, but with greater or lesser degrees of arrogance in Churches presumably Protestant.

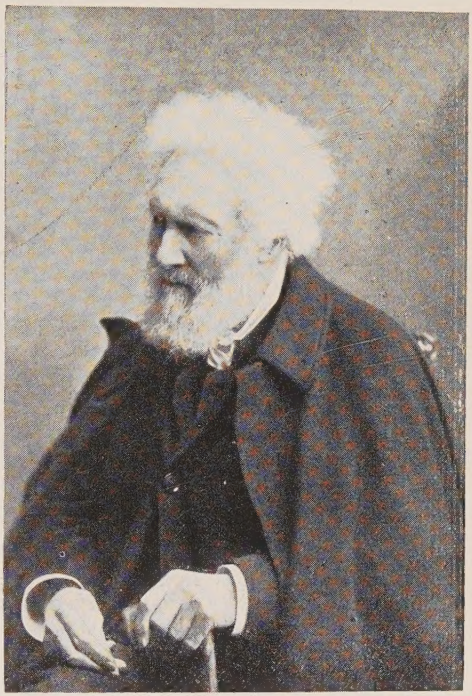
We shall not trespass further on your space at present, but hope to contribute for the October issue a short concluding article on this subject.

## A VOICE FROM THE PAST.

After the Ordination of the Rev. Samuel Craig Nelson, M.A., at Dromore, Co. Down, on the 17th March, 1825, a large company of friends assembled at dinner in the Town Hall. Amongst those present were :—The Lord Bishop of Dromore, the Roman Catholic Pastor of the Parish (Rev. Mr. M'Conville), and various members of the Presbyteries of Antrim, Armagh, Bangor, Dromore, and Letterkenny. In response to the toast of "The health of the ministers of different denominations, who have done us the honour of attending this day," the Rev. Mr. M'Conville, P.P., observed that he enjoyed peculiar satisfaction, and felt the most sincere gratitude, in rising to offer his meed of thanks for the sentiment which had just been so cordially and so rapturously received. In common with those now present, he entertained nothing but love for every member of the human race. Differences in creed were not distinctions in the cause of brotherly love. Modes of worship might vary, but there was but one common way to the throne of God—a sincere and a contrite heart. The mercy of the Almighty was extended to all who earnestly sought for it in prayer and repentance. Why, then, were contentions created or preserved in the Christian world? Let Protestants,

Presbyterians and Roman Catholics unite in a bond of fellowship. They are the children of the one Great Father of all, and are but as the leaves of our native shamrock, all springing from one common stock, and all acknowledging one parent stem.

We will not ask how many priests of the Church of Rome in Ireland would dare to give public utterance to such liberal sentiments to-day; but we are glad to think that there are at least some who would assent to them in their own minds. If there were more men in every Church who not only felt but acted on such principles, we should be almost ready to believe in the fulfilment of the enthusiastic prophecy made by Brooke Herford at the close of his book on "The Story of Religion in England:"—"The different sects are beginning to think of each other—as they are—as the varying outcome of the one great Spirit which works in all men; and though it is hardly likely that the time is very close at hand when all their differences shall have ceased to be, the time is rapidly nearing when they will cease to be any hurtful barrier. We do not look to see all the walls between the Churches done away, but we do want them to be lowered, so that all good men might shake hands over them."



The Rev. SAMUEL CRAIG NELSON, M.A.

Born at Downpatrick, 24th February, 1800.
Ordained at Dromore, 17th March, 1825.
Installed at Downpatrick, 18th February, 1835.
Died at Downpatrick, 27th January, 1891.

## ON TEMPERANCE WORK.

[By Miss Mellone.]

Turning over a volume of sermons by Mrs. Lucretia Mott, a very gifted and well-known member of the Society of Friends, I came upon this saying: "The temperance reformation has effected almost a revolution in our time, but the movement seems to be running too much into political channels. Much may be effected by the young men and young women. I desire that all may be actively engaged in the work, that all may see what their duty is, and neither shun nor disregard it." There is much wisdom in this remark. The temperance movement needs political work, but Acts of Parliament are little use unless backed by strong public opinion—a force especially needed in temperance legislation, where the influences working against the proper enforcement of the law are so strong. The great need in temperance reform is to engage the young men and young women in active temperance work. Often it is very difficult to induce them to do so: there are many who are not interested in the question at all. They are perfectly temperate themselves; they do not take the pledge, feeling themselves strong enough to do without any such aids to sobriety; and they never trouble themselves to attend temperance meetings, or concern themselves in any way with the work. To such as these the appeal not to shun or disregard their duty should be made

with special earnestness, and it might well be backed by the words of St. Paul—"We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." Most of us are quite strong enough to do without any help from Bands of Hope or Total Abstinence Societies, and too often we refuse to take the trouble to encourage such work. We should remember that our very strength brings with it a responsibility. We are bound not to please ourselves by ignoring the evil, but to bear the burdens of the weaker ones. We may not ourselves need to take the pledge, but if by so doing we can save another from the physical and moral ruin of intoxication, it is our duty to do so. Temperance meetings may not appeal to us, but if by our presence at them we can induce others to forsake the street corner, and spend an evening in the Church Schoolroom instead of the public-house, then we should go, even at some sacrifice of leisure on our part. Each of us, even we who are the least important, can influence others, can help to form that public opinion which more than anything else has effected the revolution of which Mrs. Mott spoke. Public opinion is not a mysterious and abstract something with which we have nothing to do: it is merely the sum total of all our opinions, and all of us ordinary people have our share in forming it; whether we will or no, we must either help or hinder. The coral insect is a tiny creature, yet by the work of myriads of these, whole islands have been built up from the sea floor; people build houses and plant trees, and live their whole lives on the foundations laid by these minute organisms. If we would have the life of our Ireland of to-day founded on the rock of a temperate and free people—a people free because temperate—then we must each one of us individually help to lay that foundation. It will not be done by sudden changes, but by the constant unceasing effort of each one of us to help those who are too weak to help themselves, to raise any who are struggling in the mire of intemperance on to the rock of safety.

## REPORTS.

**Ballee.**—Ballee Sunday and Day Schools' Annual Gala Day was held on Thursday, 1st August, on the school grounds, as the weather did not seem sufficiently steady to venture far from home. The day, however, proved very favourable for the occasion, and the various sports which had been arranged for the event were carried out under the most pleasing meteorological conditions. Rev. J. H. Bibby, with his wonted liberality, provided for the wants of the day, and, needless to say, there was an ample supply of the good things dear to the palates of the young people to be catered for. The mid-day luncheon and tea were served by the senior girls of the school, and the elder boys acted admirably as stewards. In this way instruction and amusement were combined, and added to the sociality of the party, besides affording an object lesson on self-help. The evening was spent in various games, including cricket, football, skipping, rings, and dancing. An 'Aunt Sally' also contributed largely to the amusement of the younger members. After tea and the distribution of fruit and confectionery, the children were assembled in the schoolroom, where a few words were addressed to them by the Rev. J. H. Bibby, pointing out the necessity of close attention to their work for the school year just begun, and the evils of irregular attendance. Cheers were then given for the Rev. J. H. Bibby and the elder members who so deftly presided at the tables, and the children separated for their respective homes, evidently well pleased with the day's entertainment.

**Ballyhemlin.**—The Ballyhemlin Sunday School Fete was held on Wednesday, 7th August, and in every respect save one, was a huge success—the exception being the weather. At 2-30 o'clock the Templepatrick contigent arrived, and this was soon augmented by a party of children from the Domestic Mission, Belfast. Shortly after 3 o'clock, headed by the Ballyhalbert Townhead Drum and Fife Band, came the main procession from Ballyhalbert, and with them came, alas! the rain. From 3

o'clock to 7-30 it rained with a persistence which almost commanded admiration! The elders of course thought of a possible lost day, but the spirits of the youngsters were in no wise damped. The Pastor, Rev. Charles Thrift, ably seconded by Mrs. Thrift, and by many another willing helper, rose to the occasion, and adapting themselves to circumstances turned to complete success that which promised only failure. All the young people—and there are lots about Ballyhemlin—were gathered into the Meeting-House and were treated in the first place to a selection of music by the Band. This was evidently greatly appreciated. Then followed a distribution of toys. At this point there could be no possible mistake about the enjoyment and happiness of the children, for the evidence was both visible and audible. Balls were tossed about, monkeys ran up sticks, and the volume of impromptu music swelled, as jews-harps, trumpets, and other instruments were handed to the young musicians. But all this, successful as it was, did not exhaust the repertoire of the Minister. Having given the children a good chance, he next proceeded to inaugurate a concert. And this also proved a success. The Minister himself led off with a song and was followed by many others, young men and maidens, all of whom sang in splendid voice and good tune, gaining encores, and proving that they can have no end of good singing about Ballyhemlin when they want it. And then came the welcome and refreshing tea. To this item of the programme, as to its predecessors, everyone did ample justice and shewed evident appreciation: for the tea was good and so were the buns; and the young ladies were excellent in their management of the hospitalities. At 7-30 o'clock the rain eased off a little, and an attempt was made at outdoor games; but the day was practically over. Shortly afterwards the Minister addressed the assembly; then all joined together in singing "God be with you till we meet again," after which the procession, headed by the Band, marched off home to the village by the sea. Truly it was a wet day, but a great many enjoyed it.

**Banbridge.**—The members of this congregation have presented their late organist, Miss M. M'Caw, on the occasion of her marriage, with a handsome sterling silver rose bowl, suitably inscribed. On Thursday evening, 1st August, the members of the choir were entertained by Miss M'Caw at her home, "The Chestnuts," Ballykelly, when they also presented her with a set of four sterling silver vases as a token of their appreciation of her services.

**Cairncastle.**—As a change from the Annual Fete held at Cairncastle, it was agreed to form an excursion party, consisting of the Choir, the Sunday and Day Scholars and their friends, for Garron Tower. The party of over a hundred persons left the Meeting-House on a recent date at 10-15 a.m., under the superintendence of Messrs. W. M'Gucken, Robert Snoddy and A. Stewart. After a delightful drive along the sea-shore, with the sun shining gloriously, the excursionists reached Garron Tower before one o'clock, and were quickly supplied with the good things provided for them by Messrs. H. M'Neill, Ltd., of Larne. Refreshments over, the trippers took every advantage of the opportunity afforded them by visiting the various places of interest —the grounds, the hills behind the castle and the show places within the house itself. Unfortunately for the sports arranged for the young people, the rain began to fall shortly after three o'clock, but the proprietors provided the party with a splendid Hall, where skipping competitions and other forms of amusement were organised for the scholars by Mrs. Thomas, Miss J. Dick, M.A., Miss Walker, Miss Esler and other friends. A very enjoyable day was spent, notwithstanding the heavy rain that accompanied the excursionists on the homeward way.

**Crumlin and Templepatrick.**—The congregations of Crumlin and Templepatrick and the Sunday Schools belonging thereto, with friends from Moira, joined together on Saturday, 24th August, to celebrate their Sunday School Fete. The place of meeting, about two miles from Crumlin, was on an out-farm of Mr. Franklin Manderson's, at the point where the Camlin

River empties itself into Lough Neagh. A prettier spot would be difficult to find or one better suited for such an occasion. Rain? but it did not rain; no, not a drop. It was the loveliest day imaginable; in the most soaked of seasons there come days when it is warm and genial, when the sun shines, when the very trees of the wood rejoice, and this was one of them. To this place, honoured in tuneful song, close upon 100 of all sizes, sallied forth from Templepatrick about 10 a.m., some in brakes, some on private cars, and others again mounted on the popular and ubiquitous bicycle. Mr. and Mrs. W. Barnett had charge of about 30 children in the first brake; the second brake contained children of a larger growth, and these seemed—at any rate on the home stretch—to have given themselves into the charge of each other; whilst in the third brake sat the more sedate elders. It was a great cavalcade, and Mr. Abraham Birkmyre acted now as whipper-in, and again as guide just as circumstances required. The Crumlin friends constituted themselves hosts and hostesses for the occasion, and a welcome repast awaited the friends from Templepatrick. Then came the fun. Two parties at once set sail for Rams Island, and greatly enjoyed the trip. Asked on their return if they had seen any round towers they replied in the negative, but the boatman, anxious to save the situation remarked that it was a fine day and there were no "waves" sir! Those on shore amused themselves to the top of their bent engaging in all kinds of competitions for which Mr. Weatherall and his people had generously supplied prizes. At five o'clock all sat down to tea; Mrs. Weatherall, assisted by many good helpers, presided, and we are glad to think that it was largely due to her untiring energy that everything went off so well. Rev. A. Turner moved a vote of thanks to the minister and congregation of Crumlin, and to Mr. Manderson for all their kindness, and Mr. Andrew M'Keown seconded. About seven o'clock the Templepatrick friends formed into line for the homeward journey, and as the word "all aboard" sounded forth a great cheer went up, expressive on the one hand of hospitality, and on the other of thanks, and on every hand that we might soon meet again.

**Comber.**—The Annual Sunday School Excursion went to Island Reagh on the 10th of August. After an hour's drive along the shores of Strangford Lough the island was reached, and shortly afterwards the farm of Mr. Thos. Henry, who had kindly prepared and lent a field for the occasion. A very pleasant day was spent there in spite of two heavy showers, and all the party returned home much pleased with their outing. The best thanks of the party are due to Mr. Henry and his family, who, in addition to granting the use of the field, kindly entertained a number to tea.

**Kilwaughter.**—On the last Saturday of July, the Annual Fete and Re-Union in connection with this Sunday School was held. At 2-30 in the afternoon the scholars and teachers assembled in their schoolroom. After singing, Miss Jane Boyd (Gold Medallist in Pianoforte Music), presiding at the harmonium, followed by prayer and address by Rev. J. Kennedy, who specially thanked the superintendent and teachers for their devoted labours from Sunday to Sunday, the party, headed by the Killyglen Flute Band, marched to a field placed at their service by Mr. S. M. Bailie. Here Mr. and Mrs. Bailie soon joined the gathering, and by their genial and unassuming friendliness, to say nothing of a generous contribution of confectionery and lemonade, added much to the happiness of all present. A bountiful tea having been dispensed by the superintendent, Mr R. M'Keown, and the teachers, Mrs. M'Keown, Miss Wallace, Miss Gingles, Miss Mary Nelson, Miss Rea, Mr. Arthur Wallace, Mr. Thomas, Mr. John, and Mr. James Nelson, dancing and games were freely indulged in, the Band supplying music abundantly in excellent time and good taste. As the afternoon wore on to evening, the young people were joined by parents of their own and other congregations, till nearly 400 young and old must have been present. The minister-elect of Greyabbey, Mr. Thos. Munn, also favoured the party with his

presence, and did much to enhance the hilarity thereof. The weather on the whole was favourable, though Jupiter Pluvius did once or twice make himself unpleasantly attentive. It may be pardonable, however, to conjecture that most of those who sought refuge under and in the neighbourhood of hedges, did not too keenly resent or even regret his interference. No pleasanter or happier meeting ever was held in Kilwaughter, the only element of sadness being the thought of the early departure of some of the finest and most promising of our young folk for Canada. To these young people, a farewell party was given on the following Friday evening, in the Old Kilwaughter Schoolroom.

**Larne and Kilwaughter.**—On the last Sunday in July, the Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., conducted evening worship here, and preached to a large and much delighted congregation, a silver collection being taken up after sermon, in aid of the Sunday School Funds. A still more interesting event occurred at the conclusion of the service, when a number of the members of the congregation assembled in the Committee Room, to mark their appreciation of the character of Miss M'Quoid, and their sense of the loss sustained by her removal from Larne. For many years Miss M'Quoid served the public as Principal of the National School, which stands in the grounds adjoining the Church. She now retires on pension, but rich also in the affections of legions of all denominations who received their education under her direction. Her services to her native congregation in Sunday School, Band of Hope, and more particularly in the Choir, where for many years she was leading soprano, were most valuable and were heartily, though perhaps inadequately recognised, by the presentation after evening service, quietly and unostentatiously, in accordance with her own unassuming and untiring disposition, of a very beautiful and valuable gold watch, with the sincere good wishes of minister and congregation for her health and happiness in her well-earned retirement from active duty.

**Moneyrea.**—The Annual Meeting of the members of this Church was held on Sunday, 4th August, at the close of the morning service. Rev. G. J. Slipper presided, and the reports of the Congregational Committee and the Sunday and Day Schools were submitted by the hon. sec., Mr. S. M'K. Turkington. These were all encouraging, the record for the year being one of progress and hopefulness. Tributes were paid to the Minister, Choir and Organist for their respective services, and the various reports, along with the treasurer's statement of accounts presented by Mr. R. Kennedy, hon. treasurer, were unanimously adopted. Mr. A. K. Stewart, treasurer to the Lyttle Memorial Fund, in seconding the adoption of the reports, also stated that the preliminary arrangements for erecting the Memorial School were now completed, after unavoidable delay occasioned by obtaining lease of ground, and the building of School would proceed at an early date. The members of Committee were re-elected.

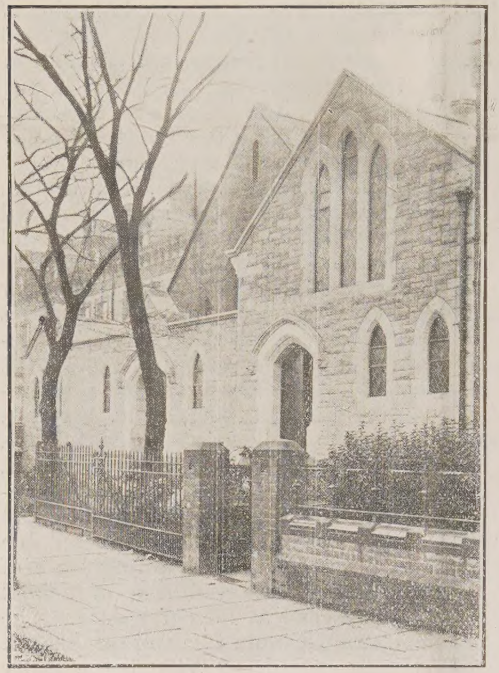
**Unity Guild.**—"What is the Unity Guild?" This is a question which appears to have puzzled a good many people. Briefly, then, the Unity Guild is an association of young people connected with the Non-Subscribing Church in and around Belfast. It was formed in January, 1906, at a meeting convened for that purpose in the Central Hall, Belfast, and one of its main objects is to provide a central organisation for the friendly reception of young men and women coming from the country to reside in the city. It also aims at bringing into closer fellowship the members of the different Churches with which it is immediately connected. We propose to chronicle the doings of the Guild in this Magazine from time to time.

## Deaths.

CRAWFORD.—On August 18th, at Glasgow, ROSE CRAWFORD, widow of John Crawford, Corkermain, Cairncastle, aged 93. Interred at Cairncastle.

M'VICKER.—On August 18th, at her son-in-law's residence, Glendhu, Belfast, MARTHA A. E. M'VICKER, widow of William M'Vicker, Straitcally, Glenarm, aged 78.

Printed by J. W. Boyd, 44 & 46, North Street, Belfast. May also be had from Miss M'Caw, the Depository, Rosemary Street, Belfast; and from Rev. A. Turner, Templepatrick, to whom all communications respecting the Magazine should be addressed.



# Mountpottinger UNITARIAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY SERVICES**
AT 11-30 A.M. AND 7 P.M.
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**
AT 10-15 A.M. AND 3 P.M.

*Minister:*
REV. J. WORTHINGTON, B.A.,
15, College Gardens.

*Secretary:*
DR. R. JACKSON MUNN,
Woodstock Road.

*Treasurer:*
MR. HENRY NAPIER.
Earlswood Road.

**SEEKING truth and the mind of Christ, we unite for the worship of God and the service of man.**

## September, 1907.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | S | M— | MR. HUGH WARNOCK. |
| | | E— | |
| 8 | S | M— | REV. W. E. MELLONE |
| | | E— | of Warrenpoint. |
| 15 | S | M— | "Humility." |
| | | E— | "Saintliness." |
| 22 | S | M— | REV. R. J. ORR. |
| | | E— | "Repentance." |
| 29 | S | M— | "Forgiveness." |
| | | E— | "Obedience better than Sacrifice." |

Silver Collections on the first Sunday in the month.

Church Committee meets on the last Sunday in the month after Morning Service.

School Committee on the second Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Choir Practice every Thursday at 8 p.m.

The Services for the month are the Fifth in the morning and Second in the evening.

## Minister's Notes.

We should be thinking now of our week-evening work for the winter months. There will as usual be regular meetings of the Band of Hope and Band of Mercy, and I understand there will be Singing and Sewing Classes for the children.

The Ladies' Sewing Society should begin meeting again next month. We shall be obliged to hold a Sale of Work later on for Church funds, but apart from that it is a good thing to work together as well as worship; it is part of our congregational life.

I am arranging for two or three lectures in connection with the Social Union, and I intend forming a class for Bible study. The Bible is the chief source of all our moral and religious enthusiasm.

I have been making inquiries about the price of the Service Book used in the Church, and I find that small copies may be purchased for 10d., and large for 2/1. Many of the books now in use are in a wretched condition, and it would be a great improvement to the Church interior to substitute new ones. Could not each member possess his own copy? I shall be glad to receive orders, and so will Miss M'Caw, at the Depository.